

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location of three (3) members of the Commonwealth Forces, during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

CWGC Commemorations Section
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
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Report Date: 10 May 2018

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	1
Most Probable Identity		Buried near this spot	2,3
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
1. Lionel Grove, Pte #22034	link	Cabaret-Rouge Br. Cem.	link
2. Noel Osborne-Jones, 2 nd Lt	link	Pas de Calais, France	i
3. Herbert Taggart, 2 nd Lt	link	Graves 7.D.3, 7.D.4, 7.F.1	i
Date of Death: 8 May 1916	all	Cemetery Plan	link
Graves Registration Reports	1a,b	War Diary Extract(s)	7a-e
Concentration of Graves	2	Casualty Reports Filed	8a-j
Headstone Register	3a,b	German Report	9
Area Map	4	Grave Stone Inscription	
Trench Map	5	Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Possible Candidates List	6	Reporting and Review	10

Summary of Findings:

There are three (3) reported burials in the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery (Graves 7.D.3, 7.D.4 and 7.F.1) that were concentrated from three (3) neighbouring graves in the Fournes German Cemetery (Graves 3.II.20, 3.II.21 and 3.II.22). All have a reported date of death of 8 May 1916. Only the Unknown British Officer concentrated into Grave 7.F.1 was identified as a member of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

An analysis of all of the facts provides clear evidence that the remains are those of the three (3) men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers that died on 8 May 1916 as a result of a raid on the German trenches at **36.N.14.a.7.4** east of the village of *le Tilleloy*, to the northwest of Fromelles. They were buried by the Germans in the Fournes German Cemetery at **36.O.31.d.8.2**, approximately 6,500 yards southeast of the location of the raid. There are no other men of any commonwealth force missing in France on that date that were in the location where the raid and subsequent burial took place ([CWGC Link](#)).

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains of the three men found buried side-by-side in the Fournes German Cemetery and concentrated to the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery are these soldiers of the 15th (Service) Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers killed on 8 May 1916:

- [Private Lionel Grove](#)
- [Second Lieutenant Noel Osborne-Jones](#)
- [Second Lieutenant Herbert Taggart](#)

The findings are based on the following:

1. The Graves Registration Reports (GRRFs) indicate that there are three (3) specific UNKNOWNs buried in the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery that are the subject of this case (*Attachment #1*). The men are identified as follows:
 - Plot VII Row D Grave 3 (7.D.3): Unknown British Soldier
Date of Death: 8-5-16
 - Plot VII Row D Grave 4 (7.D.4): Unknown British Officer
Date of Death: 8-5-16
 - Plot VII Row F Grave 1 (7.F.1): Unknown British Officer, 2/Lt.
Regiment: R. Welch Fus., Date of Death 8-5-16
2. The Concentrations of Graves Exhumations and Reburials Burial Return (COG-BR) document provides considerably more information about the three (3) UNKNOWNs (*Attachment #2*).
 - All three (3) were exhumed from the Fournes German Cemetery, located at trench map coordinates **36.O.d.8.2**, which is approximately 1,200 yards due south of Armentieres, France.
 - The men were buried side-by-side in German graves labelled as:
 - i. 3.II.20 – concentrated to Cabaret-Rouge 7.D.3
 - ii. 3.II.21 – concentrated to Cabaret-Rouge 7.D.4
 - iii. 3.II.22 – concentrated to Cabaret-Rouge 7.F.1
 - The date of death reported for all the men was 8-5-16 (8 May 1916).
 - All three graves were reported to have a standard cross.
 - On exhumation, the remains were identified by their clothing, cross and certified report.
 - The concentration (reburial) into Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery occurred at some time between 29 August 1923 and 19 September 1923.
3. The Headstone Registers appear not to have recorded all of the available information that was revealed during the concentration of the graves (*Attachment #3*). The Unknown British Soldier in 7.D.3 is reported with a date of death 8th May 1916, as is the Unknown Officer in 7.D.4. The Unknown Second Lieutenant in 7.F.1 has the same date of death but the regiment was not included. There is

no indication why the IWGC (now CWGC) dropped the known information that the remains in 7.F.1 were those of a Second Lieutenant of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

4. The areas where the trench raid took place and the remains were recovered are depicted in an extract of a period 1/40,000 map from the McMaster Lloyd Reeds Collection for the Lille sector. (*Attachment #4*). The trench raid of the 15th Bn Royal Welsh Fusiliers took place at **36.N.14.a.7.4** (marked as a red-yellow star), approximately 2,500 yards northwest of Fromelles. The remains of three men, buried by the Germans, were found in the Fournes Communal Cemetery German Extension at **36.O.31.d.8.2** (blue-orange star), approximately 4,000 yards southeast of Fromelles.
5. The specific location where the trench raid took place, relative to the British and German front lines in 1916, is marked on a 1/10,000 trench map from the National Archives Collection "Aubers 7A(S)". This area is described as the front line area south of Fleurbaix and north of Neuve Chapelle, between Armentieres and Bethune (*Attachment #5*). It was from this location that the historical documents, as in this report, tell of the collection of the wounded and dead British soldiers by the Germans.
6. For this investigation, it was essential to examine all the possible candidates that could have been recovered from the Fournes Communal Cemetery German Extension. Although it was known that all three (3) men died on 8 May 1916, and were subsequently buried side-by side, there was only one (1) of the Officers identified as being a member of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. An examination of the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) was undertaken to determine all the possible candidates for the recovered remains (*Attachment #6*). The examination revealed the following:
 - In addition to checking on the men serving in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at the time of their death, an evaluation was made of those that showed their original service with another unit but an affiliation to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers as a "Secondary Regiment". The CWGC database revealed 100 listed as that being the secondary regiment ([link](#)), of which 26 of those men were in the British Army and lost in France ([link](#)). Only 1 of the men was lost in May-June 1916 period ([link](#)), specifically 22 June 1916, and none of the men are missing or dead on 8 May 1916 ([link](#)).
 - There are UNKNOWNs with a date of death of 8 May 1916 on both the Loos Memorial and the Thiepval Memorial. The CWGC reports Thiepval Memorial is primarily (90%) for those commemorated with a death between July and November 1916, however there were four (4) Privates listed with the May date. There were no Officers listed for the Thiepval Memorial, so we know the two candidate Officers were those on the Loos Memorial. Each of those men were considered as candidates for the UBS but were dismissed based on their location at the time of death.

- We know that there was an Unknown Second Lieutenant of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers concentrated into Grave 7.F.1 of the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, whose date of death was 8 May 1916, but based on the available currently information, it is not possible to tell whether it was Second Lieutenant Noel Osborne-Jones or Second Lieutenant Herbert Taggart. It is unknown at this time if the CWGC considers graves 7.D.4 and 7.F.1 close enough together to place a "Special Memorial C" (Buried near this spot), with the alphabetic listing of names ([site schematic](#)). We do know that the three men were buried beside each other when in the Fournes German Cemetery but were separated during the concentration process.
- There is an Unknown British Officer in Grave 7.D.4 of the same cemetery, who died on the same date, but there was no evidence recorded that he was an Officer of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. There are six (6) Second Lieutenants, for all Commonwealth Forces, reported deceased on 8 May 1916. All are recorded as serving with the United Kingdom. Only two (2) named Second Lieutenants are missing and commemorated on the Loos Memorial ([link](#)). There is one (1) Lieutenant; however he has a known burial location ([link](#)). There are no other Officers of any of the Commonwealth Forces deceased and missing on that date ([link](#)). That confirms that the two Officers in graves 7.D.4 and 7.F.1 at the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery are both Officers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers:
 - i. Second Lieutenant Noel Osborne-Jones, 15th (Service) Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers
 - ii. Second Lieutenant Herbert Taggart, 11th (Service) Battalion – attached to the 15th (Service) Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers
- Further analysis of all the records of all other men who died on that date, clearly shows that the third unknown is Private Lionel Grove. Private Grove was serving with the same regiment, the 15th (Service) Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and he is reported to have died on the same date ([link](#)) as the two Second Lieutenants.
- Consideration was given to the possibility that the other UNKNOWN was either Private Hickson or Private Twohig of the 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers, shown on that list. That regiment is in the 16th (Irish) Division, 48th Infantry Brigade ([LLT link](#)). The war diary of that date (page [51 of 58](#)), places the 9th Royal Munster Fusiliers near Hulluch at **36c.H.13.b.5.5** (GPS [50.4850, 2.8152](#)), some 6,500 yards north of Lens. The raid where the Royal Welsh Fusiliers Officers were killed on that date was at **36.N.14.a.7.4** (GPS [50.6152, 2.8186](#)). The separation distance between the two locations, on two separate 1/40,000 scale maps, is more than 14 kilometers on a direct north-south route. There are no

records in the ICRC database suggesting that the RMF men were taken prisoner, thus making it highly unlikely that their remains would be found 14 kilometers from where they were killed. That means the remains are those of Private Lionel Grove in Grave 7.D.3.

- There is one (1) other member of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers ([Private Stanley Hood](#)) killed on that date and buried in the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery. His remains were concentrated from the Haubourdin German Cemetery Extension at **36.P.21.b.9.4** ([link](#)), whereas the two Officers were concentrated from the Fournes German Cemetery Extension at **36.O.31.d.8.2** ([link](#)). Fournes German Cemetery is approximately 9,000 yards southwest of the Haubourdin German Cemetery Extension ([map link](#)). The CWGC web site ([this link](#)) tells us the German Extension was used for the German Field Hospitals, suggesting Private Hood was wounded and later died on that date (8 May 1916).
- A check of the location of the four (4) Privates on the Thiepval memorial allowed them to be dismissed as candidates, based on their location at their time of death:
 - i. Coombs #10673: 1st Bn., Dorsetshire Regiment - 14th Brigade, 32nd Division (page [92 of 429](#)). They are at Bouzincourt in the Thiepval Sector, which places them at **57d.W.7**, so well out of the area and thus the man is not a candidate.
 - ii. Cowley #2560 and Fantham #2162: 1st/5th Bn., Leicestershire Regiment - 138th Brigade, 46th (North Midland) Division (page [88 of 515](#)). They had been billeted at Neuville-St. Vaast and were at Mont St. Eloy at **51c.N.2**, so also out of the area. There is no indication of the cause of death for these two casualties. It appears from looking back into April 1916 that they were being used as labour to help French miners, which they were doing until 7 May 1916. Perhaps an accidental or ancillary death?
 - iii. Fox #11296: 9th (Service) Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers - 109th Brigade, 36th (Ulster) Division (page [31 of 258](#)). There was a raid in the area of Martinsart Wood, placing them at **57d.W.3**, well out of the area for the candidates. There is extensive detail on the raid over the period of the two days of 7th and 8th May 1916. There is mention of a Private being badly wounded shortly after midnight (page [35 of 358](#)) but there were a number killed. Of the twenty three (23) reported deaths for the raid ([CWGC link](#)), only Private Fox is listed on the Thiepval Memorial. The same war diary page refers to a subsequent group of 22 wounded and then refers directly to the disappearance of Private John Fox. It was suspected that he had been "blown away" by a shell. He is not listed in the database of the I.C.R.C. ([search link](#)).

The results of the analysis of all of the candidates for the three (3) unknowns leaves us with only Private Lionel Grove, as the UNKNOWN British Soldier and Second Lieutenants Noel Osborne-Jones and Herbert Taggart as the UNKNOWN British Officers, one of whom was named as a Second Lieutenant of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

7. The war diary of the 15th (Service) Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers provides additional evidence linking the graves of the unknowns to those concentrated into the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery (*Attachment #7*), consisting of:

- Daily War Diary Page (*Attachment #7a*)
The raid took place on the night of May 7th and early morning of May 8th from 11:30 pm to 2:30 am. Reference is made to the Operation Order and Casualties attached.
- Operation Order 14 (*Attachment #7b*)
Captain Owen would lead the raid assisted by 2nd Lieutenant N. O. Jones (right party) and 2nd Lieutenant H. Taggart (left party). The raiding party was to leave the British trench at **36.N.14.a.25.35** to a point of entry at **36.N.14.a.7.4**. Captain Owen was to remain at the enemy's parapet while 2nd Lieutenants Jones and Taggart made a 15 minute excursion into the enemy trench.
- Narrative of Raid (*Attachment #7c*)
O.C. the raid (Owen) surveyed the area and then gave the order to attack at 1:50 am. 2/Lt Taggart sprang forward and shot the German sentry dead and 2/Lt Jones emptied his revolver into the bay. Both the right and left raiding parties secured a foothold in the trench.
- Notes of the Raid (*Attachments #7d and #7e*)
It is reported that the enemy was surprised by the raid. No significant casualties were suffered during the raid, other than a flesh wound to Captain Owen. However, during the withdrawal, 2/Lt Taggart was wounded in the back while retiring to the ditch in front of the German trench. Captain Owen carried him across the ditch. 2/Lt Taggart had lost the use of his legs and had to be abandoned. Four search parties failed to find him. 2nd Lt Jones was seen to fall as he stood on the enemy parapet while directing the retirement of his party. Both 2/Lts were reported "wounded and missing", along with 2 OR killed and 1 OR missing.

The war diary report therefore leaves us with both 2/Lt Osborne-Jones and 2/Lt Taggart wounded and missing. They are not reported as "killed in action" at that time. There are no names given for the OR ("Other Ranks") that are reported killed or missing.

8. There were a large number of reports, interviews and letters provided by the men involved in the raid, from those reporting after the raid and as well as from

Prisoners of War (*Attachments # 8a to #8j*). The information in these reports has been summarized and placed in chronological order:

- Captain Goronwy Owen, 15th Bn. R.W.F.
(This is in the report below from Lieut. Col, Bell but appears to be written immediately after the raid, as it refers to “yesterday”.)
Reports that their son (2nd Lt. Taggart) was seriously wounded in the back in No Man’s Land after participating in the raid. Taggart was clear of the enemy trenches and was returning to Owen’s assistance when he was shot in the back and fell. Owen reports he carried Taggart some distance over a ditch and remained with him until light, at which time he sought further help. His Serjeant (*) assisted him but was wounded. Four search parties failed to find Taggart. The Germans secured Taggart and Owen believes and hopes that Taggart is alive. He states “so far as we know, though seriously wounded, he is still alive but a prisoner”.

** I believe he is referring to Serjeant Jones (see below).*

- Lieut. Col. N. C. Bell, O.C. 15th Battalion R.W.F. 13 May 1916
(letter to the parents of Second Lieutenant Taggart)
Their son was severely wounded and is a POW. 2nd Lieut. Taggart was retiring from the German trenches when he saw Capt. Owen (the Raid Leader) bring in a wounded man. Taggart went to assist and was hit as soon as he reached Owen. Owen and a Serjeant (Jones) carried Taggart some distance and then Owen sent Jones for more assistance. Jones was hit. Owen carried Taggart across a bridge over a ditch and placed him in a covered position. Capt. Owen returned to his men. Four patrols sent out failed to reach Taggart. Donohue (* see *later Donoghue*) found Taggart when he was returning later, as he had got left out after the raid. He returned to the lines and reported to Bell that he had seen a German Officer point out Taggart, who was close to their parapet and a long way from the British trenches. A patrol went out after dark, to that spot, and found Taggart had been removed.
- Statement of Pte. Ingman #21583 St. John’s Hospital, Etaples 8/6/1916
Taggart and Osborne-Jones went over with bombing party. Both were wounded and taken prisoner. He saw the man who came back (*). They should check with Donoghue. Pte. Ingman got information from his officer (Lt. Frost) that a German POW (captured a week later) told them Taggart and Osborne-Jones were POWs, both wounded, one severely. He believed, but was not certain, that Osborne-Jones was the more seriously wounded man.

** I believe this is Pte. John Henry Donoghue #21660, 13th Bn. R.W.F. KIA 11 July 1916 (on Thiepval Memorial – [CWGC link](#))*

- Pte. Fred Bouchier #1982115th Bn. R.W.F. 8/6/1919
Private Bouchier was on sentry post duty at Duxbills near Laventie on 8 May 1916. He had been warned of 50 men going over in bombing party at about 11 pm under Taggart, Osborne-Jones and Owen (Captain). About 37 came back at 1:30 am. A search party was sent out and returned at 2:30 am without Taggart, who was left lying badly wounded 30 yards from German trenches. One of the men (*) came across Taggart and stayed with him all day. That man came back at 3:30 pm (May 8th) to get food for Taggart. Officer (?) sent out another search party at 9 pm and found that Germans had already taken Taggart.

** At the end of this report it says that someone later found out from Pte. Bouchier that the man that stayed with Taggart was Cpl. Bloor (see subsequent report from Sgt. Bloor).*

- Statement of Pte. Wm. Lloyd #19166 16th R.W.F. 2nd Southern General Hospital, 8 June 1916
He was a machine gun bearer (16th Bn.) covering the attack of the bombing party (15th Bn.). He got to the German wire that had been previously cut. There he saw Osborne-Jones on the German parapet firing his revolver into the trench. Osborne-Jones was shot and fell behind (back). Taggart was hit about the same time. Lloyd was lying in a shell hole in No Man's Land and saw the Germans pick up Osborne-Jones and put him on a stretcher. The Germans returned later and one of the German's carried him (Taggart) out on his back. A captured German POW reported 16 days later that both officers were alive then.

** Later reports (see below) suggest that Pte. Lloyd was not in No Man's Land at the time of the raid and that his statement is based on rumours at that time. Obviously there was something about Lloyd's report that conflicted with the others.*

- Statement of 2nd Lieut. W. C. Jones 15th Bn. R.W.F. Guy's Hospital, London, 30 June 1916
(appears to be written by whomever took the statement)
The informant is 2nd Lieut. W. C. Jones who was in charge of the lines from which the raid took place, which would mean that he was not out on the raid. He is not to be confused with 2nd Lieut. Noel Osborne-Jones, who participated in the raid.
2nd Lieut. Taggart (Taggart) wounded close to enemy lines and taken prisoner. Raid was about 1 am on Sunday 7 May 1916 (*). The informant (Jones) believes that Taggart is dead. He has a report from one of the men who got back that Taggart was seriously wounded in the back.

** The [calendar for 1916](#) shows Sunday was May 7th, so he is referring to the raid in the early morning hours of May 8th.*

- Pte. A. Saunders #22560 Etaples, 10 July 1916
Saunders refers to "Jones" which I have changed to "Osborne-Jones" so it is not confused with the report of "W. C. Jones".
 His report appears to be about both Taggart and Jones (Osborne-Jones). It was reported that 64 men went out on the raid at Laventie. Three men were taken prisoner (Osborne-Jones, Taggart and Gladden *). Pte. Langdon reported Osborne-Jones and Taggart taken prisoner but cannot say if dead or alive. He (Langdon?) saw Jones on the parapet firing rapidly with a revolver in each hand. He saw him heave forward and fall into the trench, apparently shot dead. Gladden's people have heard from him as a prisoner but nothing about Jones or Taggart.

** See subsequent reports. Enquiry sent to Germany to see if Pte. Gladden #27362, captured at the time of the raid, can provide additional information. No answer at the time of the report.*
- Corp. Rowley #21839 S.S. St. David, Boulogne 13 July 1916
 Taggart was in the same bombing raid as Jones. He was left in a trench between the British and German lines by Donoghue (Donoghue). Thinks Donoghue says he (Taggart) was wounded in the back but was alive. They (patrols) could not find Taggart but it was easy for the Germans as there was a line of willows from their line to ours.

This would appear to be a report based on second-hand information. I do not know the link of Cpl. Rowley to the raiding party.
- Statement of Pte. G. Spencer 15th R.W.F. Holt Auxiliary Hospital 27 July 1916
 Bombing party in early May (1916) at about 2 am at Neuve Chapelle front. Donoghue (* see above) came to trench next day at about 7 pm from No Man's Land, and reported he had been with Taggart and that Taggart was seriously wounded. Donoghue saw Germans take Osborne-Jones and Gladden, treating them very carefully. German carried Taggart across his back.
- War Office Form Request To Royal Welsh Fusiliers Depot, Wrexham Received 29-31 December 1916 Reference to Informants Report, which would be, Pte. W. Lloyd #19166 of the 16th Bn. R.W.F.
 Secretary of War requesting information from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers Depot in Wrexham. This would appear to be the request that started the investigation as to the accuracy of the report made by Pte. W. Lloyd.

- Major-General Deputy Adjutant General G.H.Q. 3rd Echelon. Was 15th Bn. Adjutant at time of the raid on 7-8 May 1916. To Secretary War Office Regarding Casualty Report C.2 Casualties 104340. Response to letter of 9 January 1917. Letter dated 13 February 1917. Report of Officer Commanding 15th Bn. R.W.F.

This soldier (whoever made the report believed to be based on rumours?) was not in "No Man's Land" during the raid. Taggart was not wounded until the raid was over. Taggart was left in a ditch after 3 recovery attempts failed. He lay in the ditch until evening 8 May 1916 and was captured by the enemy. The wounded man (*) now KIA remained with Taggart but left him at 6 am and crawled back to lines. A captured German prisoner had no knowledge of the raid. The raid began at 1:50 am with patrols to 3:30 am. Osborne-Jones was taken into German trenches about 4 am (night of 7th-8th May). Taggart was taken into German trenches about 8:30 pm next day (8th May). No news of either officer (Taggart or Osborne-Jones). The soldier's statement is believed to be based on rumours at the time.

** the wounded man must be Donoghue, as he was the man subsequently killed.*

- Author Unknown. Report of Officer Commanding 15th Bn. R.W.F. 6 April 1917 Regarding Casualty Report C.2 Casualties 104340 (very similar to the report above)

Taggart was not wounded until the operation was over and remained lying in the ditch until the following evening. Three attempts to rescue Taggart failed. Taggart was captured by the enemy before patrols the search parties could recover him. Wounded man (*Donoghue?*) now KIA remained with Taggart but left him at 6 am and crawled back to lines. A German prisoner captured by the battalion had no knowledge of the raid. The raid began at 1:50 am with patrols to 3:30 am. Osborne-Jones was taken into German trenches about 4 am (night of 7th-8th May). Taggart was taken into German trenches about 8:30 pm next day (8th May). Enquiry sent to Germany to see if Pte. Gladden #27362, captured at the time of the raid, can provide additional information. No answer at the time of the report.

- Sgt. D. W. Bloor, 4th London General Hospital 12 August 1917 To Mrs. Foster, 2nd Lt. Taggart's Sister

Sgt. Bloor made enquiries of the battalion so this is not first-hand information. Believes that Taggart is alive and a POW, based on information through the American Embassy. Taggart was with Osborne-Jones and was hit when withdrawing after the attack, 30 yards from German trenches. Captain (Owen) was with Taggart. Bloor went out to look for Taggart and returned before daylight. It was "believed" Taggart was hit in the back. A search party the following night did not find Taggart or Osborne-Jones.

9. The German Regimental History ([this link](#)), written in gothic ([fraktur](#)) in the early 1930s by Fritz Wiedemann, says that the battalion brought in two wounded and three dead Englishmen. These would be the three dead that were buried side-by-side at the Fournes German Cemetery (*Attachment #9*). The 15th Bn Royal Welsh Fusiliers appear to have raided the 6th Kompanie of the 16th Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment (List Regiment) commanded by Leutnant der Reserve Glunk. The analysis of the British casualties from the raid matches this report by the Germans:

- Second Lieutenant Herbert Taggart (deceased and buried in Fournes German Cemetery Grave 3.II.21 or 3.II.22, see [COG-BR 2113059](#))
- Second Lieutenant Noel Osborne-Jones (deceased and buried in Fournes German Cemetery Grave 3.II.21 or 3.II.22, see [COG-BR 2113059](#))
- Private Lionel Grove #22034 (deceased and buried in Fournes German Cemetery Grave 3.II.20, see [COG-BR 2113059](#))
- Private Stanley Hood (wounded, later died, buried Haubourdin Communal Cemetery German Extension ([CWGC Link](#)), concentrated to Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery Plot 16 Row A Grave 17, see [COG-BR 2113122](#))
- Private Gladden #27362 (wounded, survived, later repatriated, see ICRC Records [2584936/3/2](#))

Action Required:

The “Investigative Report” has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (*Attachment #10*).

The evidence provided by the historical documents is clear that the only unknown men of the Commonwealth Forces who died on 8 May 1916 and were initially buried side-by-side in the Fournes Communal Cemetery German Extension were Private Lionel Grove. Second Lieutenant Noel Osborne-Jones and Second Lieutenant Herbert Taggart. There are no other candidates that died at that time, are recorded as “UNKNOWN”, and that were in the specific area where the remains were recovered.

ATTACHMENT #1a

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Graves Registration Report Form.

<http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc1976121.JPG>

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

Army Form (W. 3372)

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

No. 2. Area. I.W.G.C. REPORT No. / SCHEDULE No. *410.*
610. 58c

PLACE OF BURIAL CABARET ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY.

COMMUNE: SOUCHEZ.

Map Reference *44a.s.13.d.5.3.*

The following are buried here:— *Cs*

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
		PLOT.VII. ROW."C". (Cont'd).				GRAVE No.
6/Bn. Buffs.	2390	PERGER.	Pte. J.R.		<i>25/12/32</i> ALL.	16./
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				17./
		PLOT.VII. ROW."D".				
10/Sqd. R.F.C.		GORDON.	Lt. D.	14-8-17.		1./
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.		14-12-17. (Buried)		2./
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.		8-5-16.		3./
		UNKNOWN BRITISH OFFICER.		8-5-16.		4./
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				5./
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.			CROSSES	6./
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				7./
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				8./
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				9./
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				10./
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.		9-12-16.		11./
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.			ERECTED.	12./

ENTERED
CHECKED

(6 31 5) W2709-P3798 15,000 12/20 HWV(P616) Form W3372/4

ATTACHMENT #1b

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Graves Registration Report Form.

<http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc9999999.JPG>

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

No. 2. Area.
I.W.G.C.

REPORT No. / SCHEDULE No. 48c.
63c. 60c

PLACE OF BURIAL CABARET ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY.

COMMUNE: SOUCHEZ.

Map Reference 44a.S.13.d.5.3.

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
PLOT.VII. ROW.'E'. (Cont'd).						
B.Coy. 5/Ptoteen.	93727	REARCE.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.	EF/x/12448	ALL	9/
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				10/
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				11/
N/Lancs.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				12/
8/Lincolns.	466	U. B. S.		EF/x/12447		13/
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				14/
R.Fus.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.			CROSSES	15/
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				16/
8/Queens. R.W.S.	4487	PARKINS.	Pte. A.H.	25. 9. 15	EF/x/12449	17/
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				18/
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				19/
PLOT.VII. ROW.'F'.						
R.Welch Fus.		UNKNOWN BRITISH OFFICER.	2/Lt. 8-5-16.			1/
1st Otago NZEF.	63160	HICKS.	Pte. C.W.	19-8-18.	ERECTED.	2/

ENTERED

ELITE CHECKED

(6 31 5) W2709-P3738 15,000 12/20 HWV(R646) Forms/W3372/4

R care made for Parkins 23/9/25

ATTACHMENT #2

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return. <http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2113059.JPG>

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (EXHUMATION AND REBURIALS)
BURIAL RETURN.

Authority: W.G.R.I. No. 859.d/27-7-23.
 CABARET ROUGE, B.C. Sh. 44a. S. 13.d. 5. 3.

Map Reference where body found
 Grave
 Row
 Plot

Was cross on grave?
 Regimental particulars
 Means of Identification
 Were any effects forwarded to Base?

12/1/188.
 29-8-23 to 19-9-23.
 Name of Cemetery of Reburial

8	G	25.	Ger. Grave. No. 3.VI.6.	3.VI.11.	Standard.	1/2 Lt. Joseph H. ZEDER.	Clothing, cross & Certified Rpt.	No.
8	G	26.	3.VI.7.	3.VI.12.	-do- UBS on Cross.	2/Ox & Bucks. 3-7-16.	-do- Officers clothing & tie.	No.
8	G	27.	3.VI.8.	3.VI.13.	Standard.	U.B.S. 29-6-16.	Clothing, cross & Certified Rpt.	No.
8	G	28.	3.VI.9.	3.VI.14.	-do-	U.B.S. 1-5-16.	-do-	No.
8	G	29.	3.VI.10.	3.VI.15.	-do- UBS on Cross.	U.B. OFFICER. (2/tt.) 1-6-16.	-do- Small Crucifix, Mascot pig: Phial.	No.
8	G	30.	3.VI.11.	3.VI.16.	Standard.	U.B.S. 3-6-16.	Clothing, cross & Certified Report.	No.
7	D	1.	6.I.20.		-do-	Lt. D. GORDON. 10/Sqd. R.F.C. 14-8-17.	-do-	No.
7	D	2.	6.II.25.		-do-	U.B.S. Buried 14-12-17.	-do-	No.
7	D	3.	3.II.20.		-do-	U.B.S. 8-5-16.	-do-	No.
7	D	4.	3.II.21.		-do- UBS on Cross.	U.B. OFFICER. 8-5-16.	-do- Officers clothing.	No.
7	F	1.	3.II.22.		Standard.	U.B. OFFICER. 2/Lt. 8-5-16.	-do-	No.
7	F	2.	1.XI.M.1.		-do- Collect. Cross. 7 names.	63180. Pte. C.W. HICKS. 1st. Otago. NZEF. 19-8-18.	Certified Report Cross & N.Z. Buttons.	No.

Assd. Registration Officer.
 Nos. 2 & 3 Great I.W.C. Armistices.

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

ENTERED 9.10.23
 SLIP: CHECKED 10.11.23

ATTACHMENT #3a

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Comprehensive Report (A) of Headstone Inscriptions.*
<http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2081351.JPG>

No. of Contract..... Dated.....
 Name and Address of Firm.....

Imperial War Graves Commission.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS
 to this report is attached
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS
(those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined)
 and
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

Schedule "A" Page..... 5.....
 Name of Cemetery
CABARET ROUGE B.C. "C"
 To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:—
CAB. ROGE. B.C.

Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st Line. Number and Rank.	2nd Line Initials, NAME and Honours.	3rd Line Regiment.	4th Line Date of Death. In any instance where the entry "NONE" appears in Col. 5, the Age will be omitted from the Headstone and the Date of Death centred laterally.	Age	Centre of Stone Relig. Emb.	To be stencilled on foot of Headstones below ground level. Plot P. Row R. Grave G. P. R. G.	No. of Stone
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR			15	CROSS	7 C 11	682
1027/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	E. KENT REGT. (THE BUFFS)		34	CROSS	7 C 12	683
1027/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	E. KENT REGT. (THE BUFFS)		34	CROSS	7 C 13	684
1055/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	THE CAMERONIANS (SCQ. RIF.)		37	CROSS	7 C 14	685
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR			15	CROSS	7 C 15	686
1027/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	E. KENT REGT. (THE BUFFS)		34	CROSS	7 C 16	687
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR			15	CROSS	7 C 17	688
1192/1A	LIEUTENANT	D. GORDON	ROYAL FLYING CORPS	14TH AUGUST	1917 AGE 19	CROSS	7 D 1	689
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR			15	CROSS	7 D 2	690
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	8TH MAY 1916		25	CROSS	7 D 3	691
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	UNKNOWN OFFICER	8TH MAY 1916	39	CROSS	7 D 4	692
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR				CROSS	7 D 5	693
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR				CROSS	7 D 6	694
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR				CROSS	7 D 7	695
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR				CROSS	7 D 8	696 chsks.
					60			
					368			
					1646			
					2014			

301
1111
1412

Proof Checked.
 Final Check No. 1.
 Office Copy Prepared.
 Final Check No. 2.

ATTACHMENT #3b

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Comprehensive Report (A) of Headstone Inscriptions.
<http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2081355.JPG>

No. of Contract..... Dated.....
 Name and Address of Firm.....

Imperial War Graves Commission.

Schedule "A" Page 7.

Name of Cemetery
CABARET ROUGE B.C. "C"

To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:—
CAB. ROGE. B. C.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS
 to this report is attached
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS
 (those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined)
 and
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st Line. Number and Rank.	2nd Line Initials, NAME and Honours.	3rd Line Regiment.	4th Line Date of Death. In any instance where the entry "NONE" appears in Col. 6, the Age will be omitted from the Headstone and the Date of Death centred laterally.	Age	Relig. Emb.	Flot P. Row R. Grave G. P. R. G.	To be stencilled on foot of Headstones below ground level.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1192/1A	CAPTAIN	A. CLAYDON, DFC.	ROYAL AIR FORCE	8TH JULY 1918	31	NONE	CROSS	7 E 6 692
1202/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	A CANADIAN REGIMENT		32		CROSS	7 E 7 693
1056/1A	3/7562 PRIVATE	A. HAYWARD	SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY	3RD DECEMBER 1916	49	NONE	CROSS	7 E 8 694
LAYOUT 1E	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR			15		CROSS	7 E 9 695
LAYOUT 1E	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR			15		CROSS	7 E 10 696
LAYOUT 1E	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR			15		CROSS	7 E 11 697
1032/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	LOYAL NORTH LANCES.		34		CROSS	7 E 12 698
LAYOUT 1E	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	REGT.		15		CROSS	7 E 13 699
LAYOUT 1E	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR			15		CROSS	7 E 14 700
1048/1G	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR	ROYAL FUSILIERS		29		CROSS	7 E 15 701
LAYOUT 1E	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR			15		CROSS	7 E 16 702
1061/1A	G/4487 PRIVATE	A.H. PARKINS	THE QUEEN'S	25TH SEPTEMBER 1915	39	NONE	CROSS	7 E 17 703
LAYOUT 1E	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR			15		CROSS	7 E 18 704
LAYOUT 1E	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR			15		CROSS	7 E 19 705
1065/1G	A SECOND LIEUTENANT	OF THE GREAT WAR	(FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. G/H.)		67		CROSS	7 F 1 706

280
1669
1949

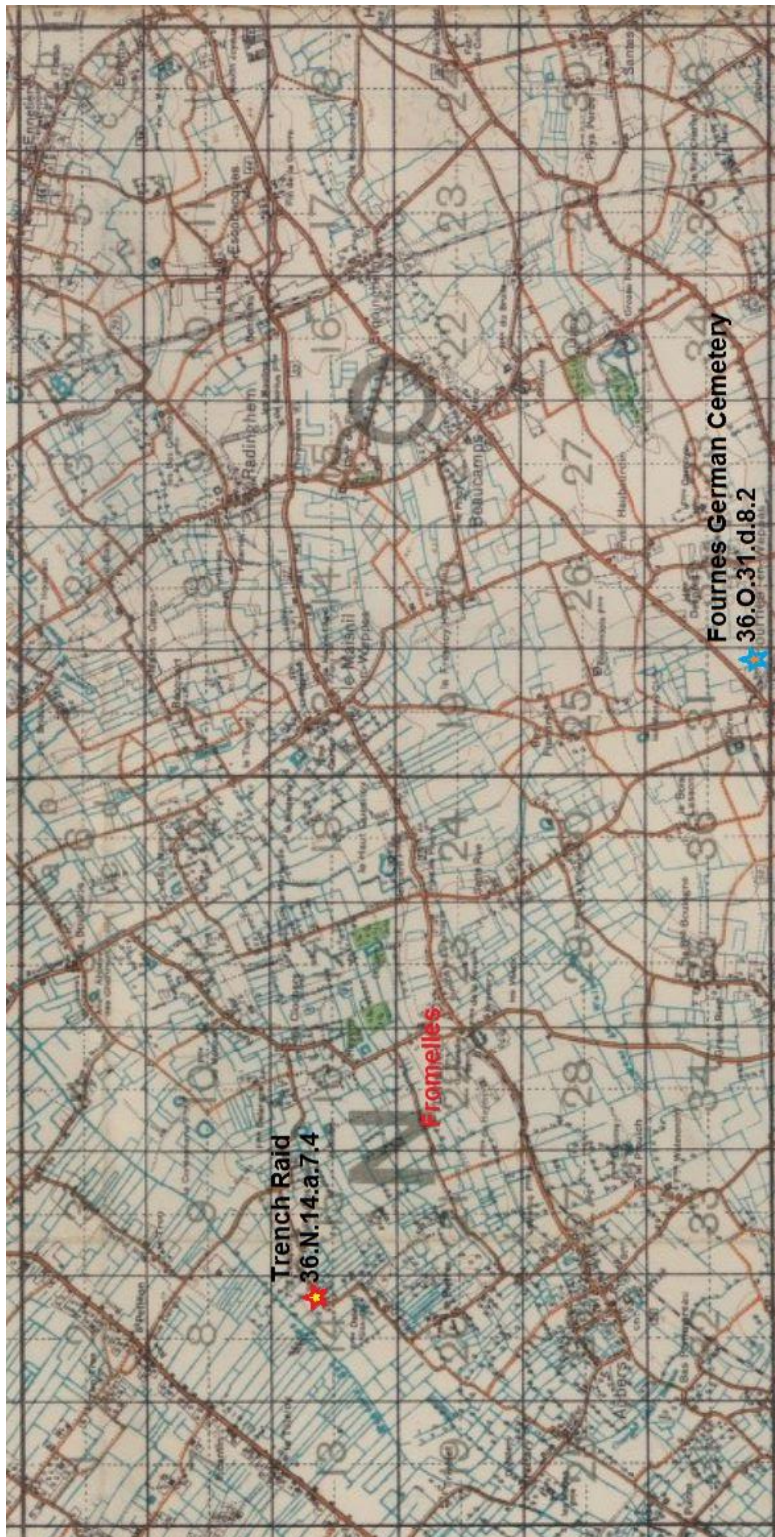
401
2503
2904

* A special BADGE DESIGN is provided for use with the Headstone.

Proof Checked.
 Final Check No. 1.
 Office Copy Prepared.
 Final Check No. 2.

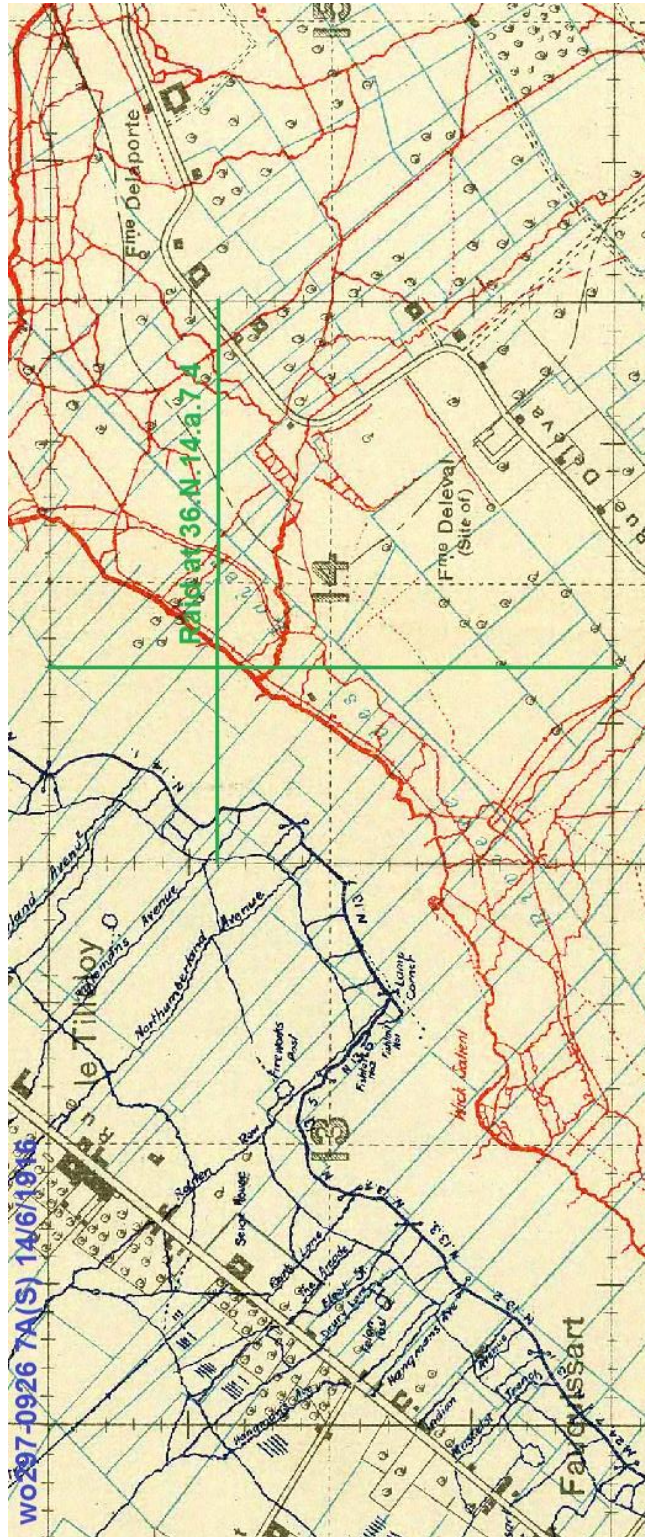
ATTACHMENT #4

Lloyd Reeds Map Collection of McMaster University, Hamilton Ontario Canada. Bapaume Map
389WW1MAP. <http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo%3A4178/-/collection>



ATTACHMENT #5

The National Archives British Trench Map Atlas.57cNW4 Beugny Edition 2A Map wo297_10296 7A(S)
Trenches Corrected 14/6/1916. Naval and Military Press, Uckfield, West Sussex, United Kingdom.



ATTACHMENT #6

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Casualty Record: Commonwealth Forces.*

<https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead/results?country=France&war=1&dateFrom=08-05-1916&dateTo=08-05-1916>

surname	initials	rank	regiment	unit	#	memorial	location at death (remains at 36.O.31)
HICKSON	W	Private	Royal Munster Fusiliers	9th Bn.	'1697'	LOOS MEMORIAL	Hulluch 36c.H.13
TWOHIG	E	Private	Royal Munster Fusiliers	9th Bn.	'1097'	LOOS MEMORIAL	Hulluch 36c.H.13
GROVE	L	Private	Royal Welsh Fusiliers	15th Bn.	'22034'	LOOS MEMORIAL	le Tilloy 36.N.14
OSBORNE-JONES	N	2nd Lieutenant	Royal Welsh Fusiliers	15th Bn.		LOOS MEMORIAL	le Tilloy 36.N.14
TAGGART	H	2nd Lieutenant	Royal Welsh Fusiliers	11th Bn., att'd. 15th Bn.		LOOS MEMORIAL	le Tilloy 36.N.14
COOMBS	W H	Private	Dorsetshire Regiment	1st Bn.	'10673'	THIEPVAL MEMORIAL	Bouzincourt 57d.W.7
COWLEY	J W	Private	Leicestershire Regiment	1st/5th Bn.	'2560'	THIEPVAL MEMORIAL	Mont Sat. Eloy 51c.N.2
FANTHAM	W	Private	Leicestershire Regiment	1st/5th Bn.	'2162'	THIEPVAL MEMORIAL	Mont Sat. Eloy 51c.N.2
FOX	J	Private	Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	9th Bn.	'11295'	THIEPVAL MEMORIAL	Martinsart Wood 57d.W.3

ATTACHMENT #7a

War Diary 15th (Service Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 113th Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division.
UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920. Royal Welsh Fusiliers 38th Division
Piece 2556/1: 15 Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers (1915 Dec - 1918 Feb). Page [31 of 197](#).

Army Form C. 2118

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LAVENTIE	1 st May	8 ⁴⁵ am	Relieved 16 th RWF in support of Laventie (see O.O. attached)	0012
"	2	"	Laventie support.	
"	3	"	"	
"	4	"	"	
"	5	"	Moved to front line trenches, FAUGUSSART, relieving 16 th RWF. 16th RWF wounded. (O.O. attached)	0013
"	6	"	9 th front line 1. O.R. wounded.	
"	7	"	Raided enemy trenches. (Operation Order v Casualties attached) Raid 11.30 pm - 2.40 a.m. 7/8 May.	0014
"	8	"	1. O.R. wounded who was not in Raiding Party.	
"	9	"	2 front line 1. O.R. killed 1. O.R. wounded.	
"	10	9 pm	Relieved by 16 th RWF. Returned to Laventie.	
"	11	"	At Laventie	
"	12	"	"	
"	13	5 pm	Relieved 16 th RWF in front line Faugussart. Captured German Prisoner from 16 th Battalion. Res: Regt. Carl Hommesler of Munich: 1 O.R. killed	0015
"	14	"	2 front line 1. O.R. wounded.	
"	15	"	Three hours bombardment of enemy's trenches. T.M.B's Rifle grenades cooperating: one casualties 1. O.R. wounded	1976
"	16	"	Three hours bombardment of our trenches by enemy in retaliation for our previous day's bombardment. One casualties. N.C.	
"	17	"	Relieved by 13 th Welsh Regt: relief shelled heavily by enemy: one casualties, N.C.	0016
"	18	"	2 Divisional Reserve at LA GORGOE	
"	19	"	"	

G.D.R. in C British Press in France avoids losses for 11th Div. 4.
N.C. 15th R.W.F.
(p. 47)

1875 Wt. 593/926 1,000,000 415 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

la Jorgue

ATTACHMENT #7b

War Diary 15th (Service Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 113th Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division.
UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920. Royal Welsh Fusiliers 38th Division
Piece 2556/1: 15 Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers (1915 Dec - 1918 Feb). Page [35 of 197](#).

SECRET.
OPERATION ORDER NO 14 BY MAJOR H. HODSON COMMDG. 15th BATTN. R.W.F.
(1st LONDON WELSH)

COPY NO. 2. 601P

MAP REFERENCE. Sheet 36 S.W. 1 Brigade Trench Map Area "K"
Scale 1/10,000

INTENTION. Captain G. Owen assisted by 2nd Lieut N.O. Jones, 2nd Lieut H. Taggart and 2nd Lieut D.F. Ingledon (119th Brigade R.F.A.) with 52 H.B.O's and men will raid enemy's trenches at N 14 a 7.4.
Operation to commence at midnight 7/8th May 1916.

OBJECT.

1. To kill Germans.
2. To take Prisoners.
3. To capture or destroy Machine Guns.
4. To secure samples of German Equipment, Steel Helmets, Respirators, Ammunition etc.

PRELIMINARY RECONNAISSANCE. At 10.30 p.m. Cpl. Bloor and 4 men will reconnoitre to enemy wire in front of objective: will cut wire where necessary and will return to report on enemy's vigilance.

DISTRIBUTION. The Raiding Party will be drawn up at 11.30 p.m. and will leave our Trench at N 14 a 7.4-22.32. It will proceed along the line of Willows to enemy's wire. As a distinguishing mark all faces and hands will be blackened. It will be composed of Right Party under 2nd Lieut N.O. Jones and 30 O.R. Left Party under 2nd Lieut H. Taggart and 30 O.R. and the O.C. Raiding Party (in support) with 11 O.R.

Left and Right Parties will advance side by side in single file led by two Officers.

On reaching point of entry at N 14 a 7.4 Right Party will operate to right for 50 yards, Left Party to left for 50 yards along enemy's trench.

Captain Owen's Party will remain at enemy parapet N 14 a 7.4 and will:-

1. Establish and retain communication.
2. Mark enemy trench at point of entry to right and left Raiding Parties with square of white calico.
3. Widen path through enemy wire for withdrawal.
4. Help with Prisoners and Wounded.
5. Signal to Artillery to barrage (if required).
6. Withdraw when Right and Left Raiding Parties are clear of enemy trenches.

Operation will last for 15 minutes from the time of entry. Three long blasts on the whistle will be the signal for withdrawal.

ATTACHMENT #7c

War Diary 15th (Service Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 113th Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division.
UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920. Royal Welsh Fusiliers 38th Division
Piece 2556/1: 15 Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers (1915 Dec - 1918 Feb). Narrative of Raid on Page [38 of 197](#).

NARRATIVE OF THE RAID.

10.45 p.m. Corpl Bloor and 4 men set out on preliminary reconnaissance, with orders also to cut the wire. No message was received from this patrol until 12.30 a.m.

11.30 p.m. Right and Left Raiding Parties drawn up in our trench ready to file out.

12 midnight. No message from preliminary patrol.

12.30 a.m. Runner from patrol reported that an enemy Wiring Party 12 to 18 strong was at work on wire near N 14 a 7.4 the point chosen as the objective of the Raid. Cpl Bloor and 3 men were keeping this party under observation.

12.40 a.m. O.C. Raid decided, after consulting Battalion Headquarters, to lead his parties along line of Willows to a ditch which ran about 40 yards in front of German wire, hoping to better appreciate the situation and, if necessary, to rush the enemy wiring party.

Raiders then filed out and leading files reached the ditch, N 14 a 5.4. O.C. Raid and Sergeant Major advanced alone from this point and met Cpl. Bloor creeping towards line with white tape which he was in the act of laying from the gap in the enemy wire to the ditch. The Cpl. explained that since the departure of his messenger the enemy wiring party had reentered the trenches, and he and his men had gone forward and had cut outer wire. O.C. Raid advanced to the wire and discovered it to be 15 feet wide and the gap to be incomplete. He worked alone for approximately a quarter of an hour, cutting the last few feet. There was dead silence around him except the tread of a German sentry in a bay opposite him, having finished, he approached the German parapet across a narrow ditch with a muddy bed. The German parapet was on the far side of this. The sentry at this time was fortunately walking in the fairway of the trench, and not on the fire step. O.C. Raid secured a view of this bay and of the bays to right and left. He estimated that there were 20 men in these three bays standing about in groups, some without equipment and arms.

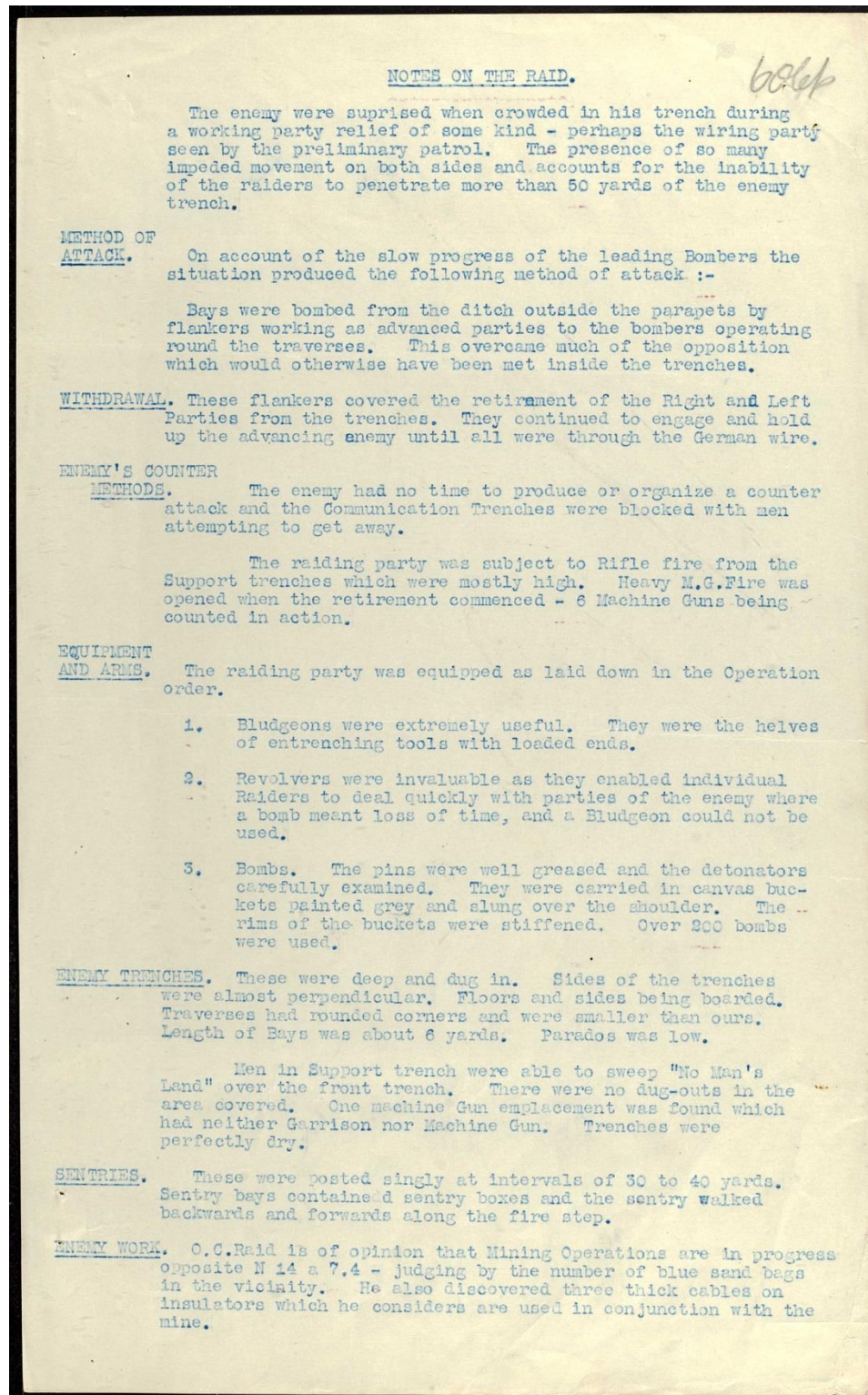
O.C. Raid then returned to his parties. He fixed a position for the R.F.A. Officer and his two telephonists in a shell hole, and handed over his red flash lamp. He then led his party through the wire.

1.50 a.m. The order to attack was given. 2/Lt H. Taggart sprang forward and shot the sentry dead, and 2/Lt N.O. Jones emptied his revolver into the bay. Another sentry was bludgeoned. This was followed by a shower of bombs into the three bays at the point of entry, putting the 20 men, estimated to be in them, out of action. Both raiding parties secured a foothold in the trench. Two blasts on a hooter then sounded the alarm in the enemy trench.

Right and Left Parties filed into action. Both were surprised at the number of the enemy in adjacent bays and along the traffic way. The Germans stood sandwiched together, some without equipment and arms which seems to show that they did not constitute the ordinary garrison of the trench.

ATTACHMENT #7d

War Diary 15th (Service Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 113th Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division.
UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920. Royal Welsh Fusiliers 38th Division
Piece 2556/1: 15 Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers (1915 Dec - 1918 Feb). Notes on Raid Page [40 of 197](#)



ATTACHMENT #7e

War Diary 15th (Service Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 113th Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division.
UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920. Royal Welsh Fusiliers 38th Division
Piece 2556/1: 15 Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers (1915 Dec - 1918 Feb). Notes on Raid Page [41 of 197](#)

- 2 -

605b

Although they could offer no opposition, they blocked the way of the bombers. Realizing that there was a delay some bombers on the parapet started to bomb successive bays to right and to left from the ditch outside the parapet. In this way they helped to clear out the bays in front of the bombers who were in the trenches, bombing around the traverses. Right party encountered a narrow communication trench also congested with German. The enemy in this trench were vigorously bombed and his casualties were severe. Bombs were thrown as far as possible down the closely packed trench. This heavy bombing prevented the enemy reinforcing through this trench.

Left party also found progress slow on account of the density of the enemy. At one point a general rush was made by the occupants of the trench bay to a bomb store, but before they could secure any bombs they were anticipated and put out of action by our leading bombers. Numerous attempts to gain this Store by the enemy were prevented by steady bombing. Enemy casualties were heavy here.

After 13 minutes of energetic clearing the raiders had secured 50 yards of trench. O.C. Raids then decided to withdraw.

2.10 a.m.
The last bombs were thrown from the ditch by the Rear Guard of both parties as they retired through the wire. These bombs fell among advancing Germans and held them up for some minutes.

During this operation neither of the Raiding Parties had suffered a single casualty. O.C. Raid alone sustained a flesh wound from a bomb splinter on his cheek.

WITHDRAWAL.
When the parties were reported out of the trench O.C. Raid withdrew. Intense M.G. Fire from the flanks was opened on our men as they retired. Rifle fire was opened from a Support Trench. 2/Lt Taggart was wounded in the back when moving towards the ditch. Capt. Owen carried him across the ditch and sent Sergt. Jones forward for further assistance. Sergt. Jones was wounded as he went away, and fearing he would be cut off, was forced to abandon 2/Lt Taggart, who seemed to have lost the use of his legs. Four search parties failed to locate 2/Lt Taggart. 2/Lt N.O. Jones was seen to fall as he stood on the enemy parapet directing the retirement of his party.

2.40 a.m.
Raiding Parties were back in our trench. At this time it was getting too light for further operations.

OUR CASUALTIES.
Captain G. Owen. Slightly wounded (at duty)
2nd Lieut N.O. Jones. Wounded and Missing.
2nd Lieut H. Taggart. Wounded and Missing.
3 O.R. Killed.
1 O.R. Missing.
8 O.R. Wounded (5 slightly)
1 O.R. Wounded (at duty)

ENEMY CASUALTIES.
Captain Owen after careful cross examination of his men places these at 50 killed and wounded. This is a conservative estimate.

(sgd) R.C. BELL.
Lieut Colonel.
Commanding 15th Battalion Royal Welsh
Fusiliers.

ATTACHMENT #8a (Goronwy and Bell)

1340

15 Batt. (1st London Welsh.)

13th May.

Dear Sir,

It is with the very deepest regret that I have to inform you that your son was very severely wounded and is a prisoner with the Germans. After a successful raid during which he behaved with the greatest gallantry and dash, he was retiring from the German trenches when he saw Capt. Owen, the Raid Leader, trying to bring in a wounded man, your son at once turned and went back to assist Capt. Owen, he was hit immediately he reached him. Capt. Owen and a Sergeant then carried him for some way. Capt. Owen sent the Sergt. (Jones) for more assistance, but he (Jones) was hit when carrying out the orders. Capt. Owen carried 2/Lt. Taggart across a bridge over a ditch and then being exhausted put him down in a more or less covered position. As it was past evening light and they were close to the German trench Capt. Owen had to go back to his men. Four patrols sent out failed to reach your son. Later in the day a man (Donohue) who had got left out crawled up to the spot and spoke to your son who told him to go on and send out for him after dark. The man eventually got in and gave me this message. This man had seen a German officer point out 2/Lt. Taggart's position to some of his men. It was quite apparent that the Germans would certainly reach him first as he was close to their parapet and a long way from ours. A patrol was sent out at once after dark but could not at first get to the spot, when they eventually did he had been removed.

(Signed) N.C. Bell, Lieut. Col.
Comdng. 15th R.W.F.

15 R.W.F.
B.E.F. France.
9.5.16.

I regret to say that during the early hours of yesterday morning, your son, Lt. Taggart (or Taggart as I knew him), was seriously wounded in the back in 'No Man's Land', after playing a conspicuous and most gallant part in a raid on the German trenches opposite our line. He had got clear of the enemy trenches unwounded, but while returning to my assistance with two wounded men, he was shot in the back and fell. I immediately hastened to his assistance, managed to carry him some distance over a ditch and remained with him until light became too clear and then sought to obtain further help. One of my Sergeants who had assisted me, had himself been wounded while on a similar errand. Four search parties organised by me went to search for him, but failed to find him. It was then too light to search for him again. I was myself wounded and I regret to say that early last night, the Germans secured him, as I believe and hope, alive.

So far as we know, though seriously wounded, he is still alive, but a prisoner.

(Signed). Goronwy Owen, Capt.
15 R.W.F.

ATTACHMENT #8b (Ingman, Boucier and Lloyd)

June 8th 1916.

Pte. Ingman 21583, at St. John's Hospital, Staples, states:-

"2nd Lt. H. Taggart and 2nd Lt. N. O. Jones went over with a bombing party and were both wounded and taken prisoners. I saw the men who came back. Pte. Donaghue was one and could, no doubt, give more information.

I was told by my officer, Lt. Frost, that a German prisoner whom we took a week later, had stated that both officers were prisoners, one severely wounded, one slightly, but both doing well. As far as I could gather Lt. Jones was the more severely wounded but I am not certain as to this."

The above is confirmed by Cpl. Arnold 32064, who was told by Capt. Griffiths of C. Coy.

Pte. F. Boucier, 19821, 15th Royal Welsh Fusiliers, states:-

"On May 8th at Duxbille near Laventie, he was on sentry post duty. He was warned that a bombing party of about 50 men were going out at 11 o'clock that night in charge of Lieut. Taggart, Lieut. Jones and Capt. Owen. Only about 37 came back at 1.30 in the morning. A search party went out at once until 2.30 but it was too light then, and they had to come back without finding Lieut. Taggart, who had been left lying badly wounded in the back 30 yards from the German trenches. One of the men on the bombing raid came across Lieut. Taggart and stayed with him all day. At 3.30 in the afternoon he came back to our trenches for food which he took back to Lieut. Taggart. The Officer then insisted on his returning, and told him to send out a search party as soon as dusk came. The party started out at 9 o'clock but were too late, as the Germans had already found Lieut. Taggart and taken him in."

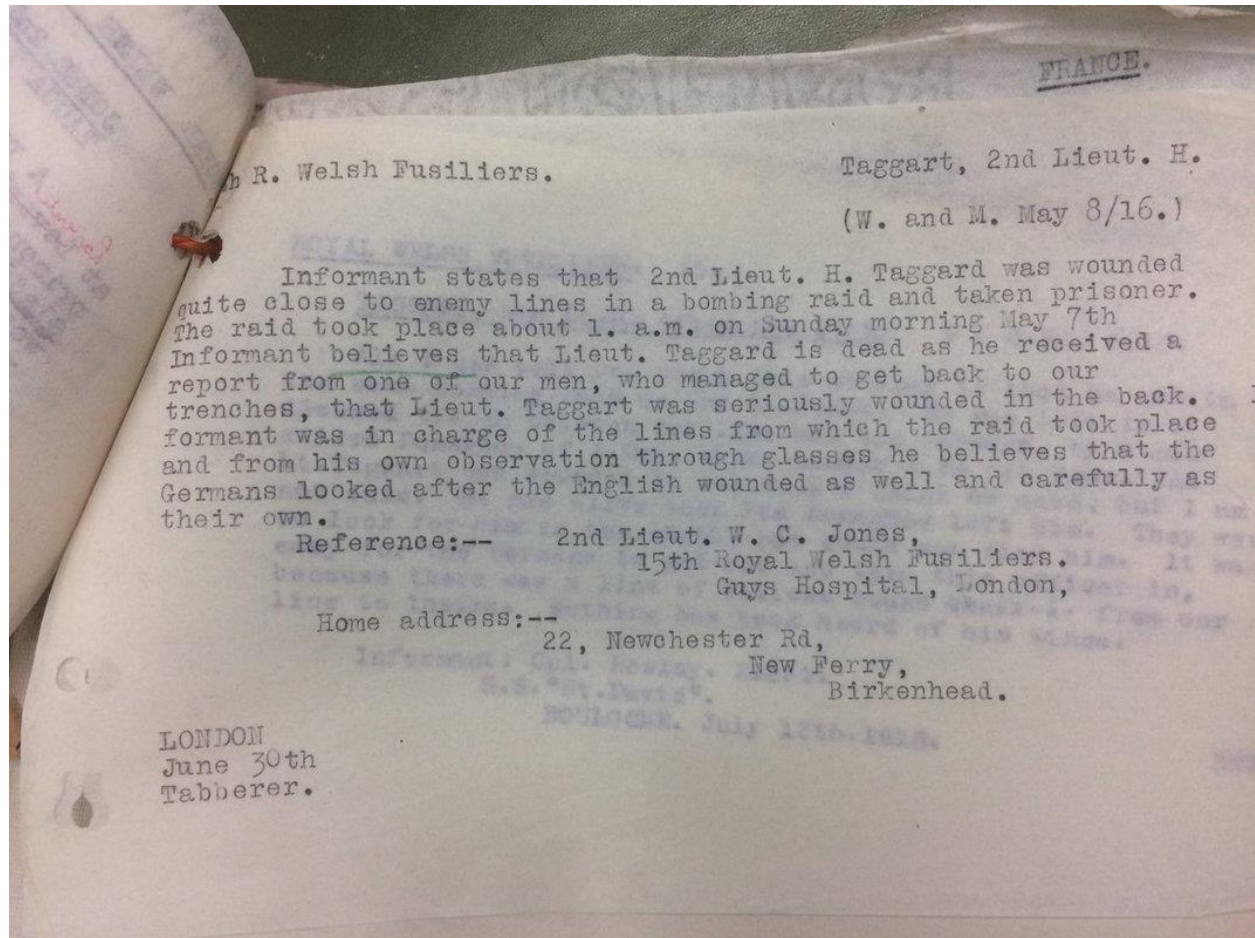
Our Searcher adds:-

"I kept this report back until I could see Fred Boucier again, as he said he would try and remember the name of the man who attended to Lieut. Taggart. It was Cpl. Bloor (15 D. XIV) and he was given the D.C.M. afterwards. The others did not know what he was doing until they heard his voice shouting to them from their own barbed wire asking for food to take back to Lieut. Taggart".

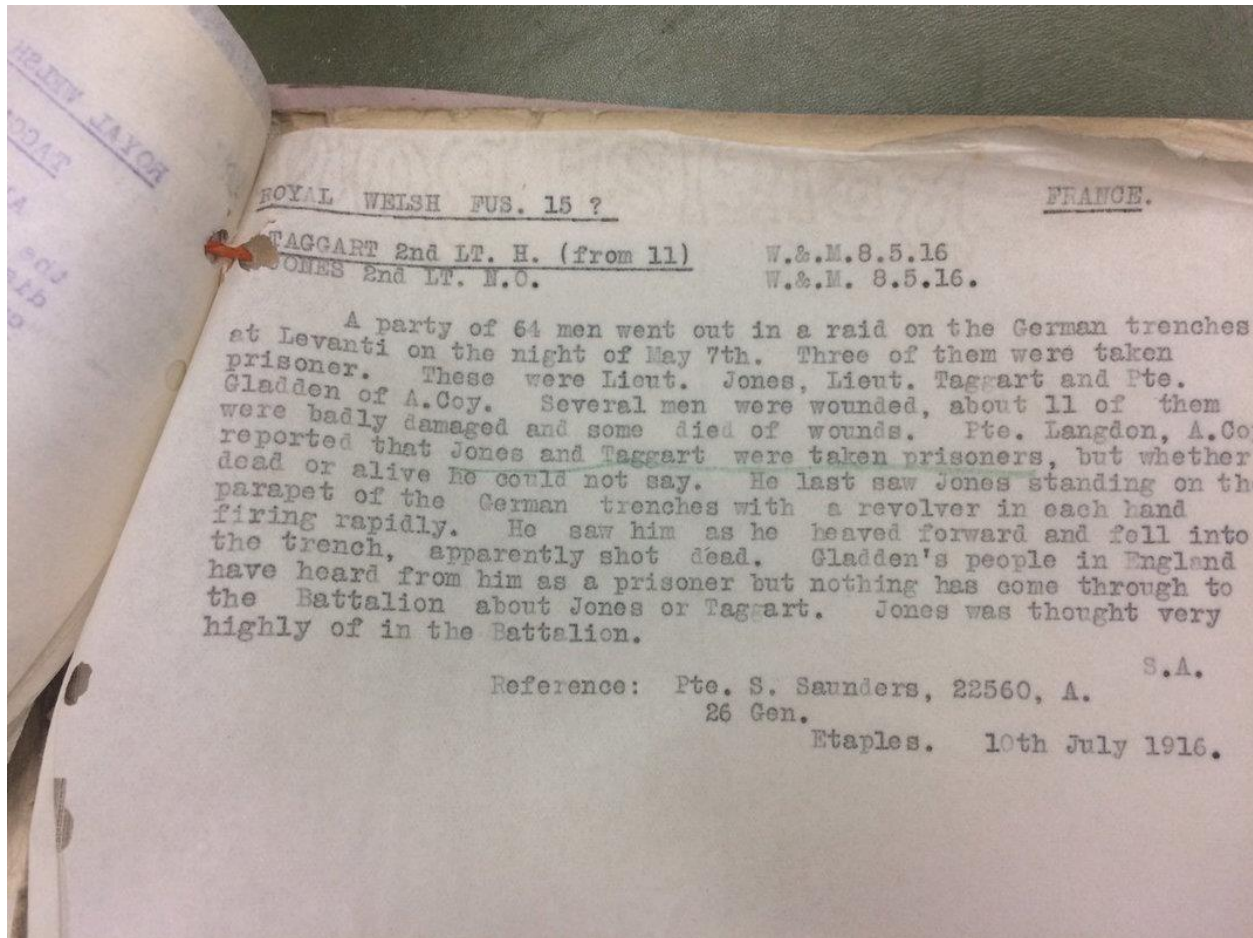
Pte. Wm. Lloyd, 19166, 16th Royal Welsh Fusiliers, now in the 2nd Southern General Hospital, Ward 2, Southmead, states:-

"On May 8th 1916 at Laventie I was with Machine gun bearer covering attack of the bombing party from the 15th Batta. It was dark about 11.30 p.m. We got to German wire which had been cut previously. I saw Lt. Jones on the German parapet firing his revolver into the trench, he was shot and fell behind, at the same time Lieut. Taggart was hit. About 2.30 a.m. I was lying in a shell-hole in No Man's Land when I saw a German officer and two stretcher-bearers pick up Mr. Jones, put him on a stretcher and take him into the German trench. Later on the same officer and five or six stretcher bearers came out, they went to Mr. Taggart and one of them picked him up on his back and took him in. A captured German prisoner about sixteen days after reported that both officers were alive then".

ATTACHMENT #8c (W. C. Jones)



ATTACHMENT #8d (Saunders)



ATTACHMENT #8e(Rowley)

8.5.16
France.

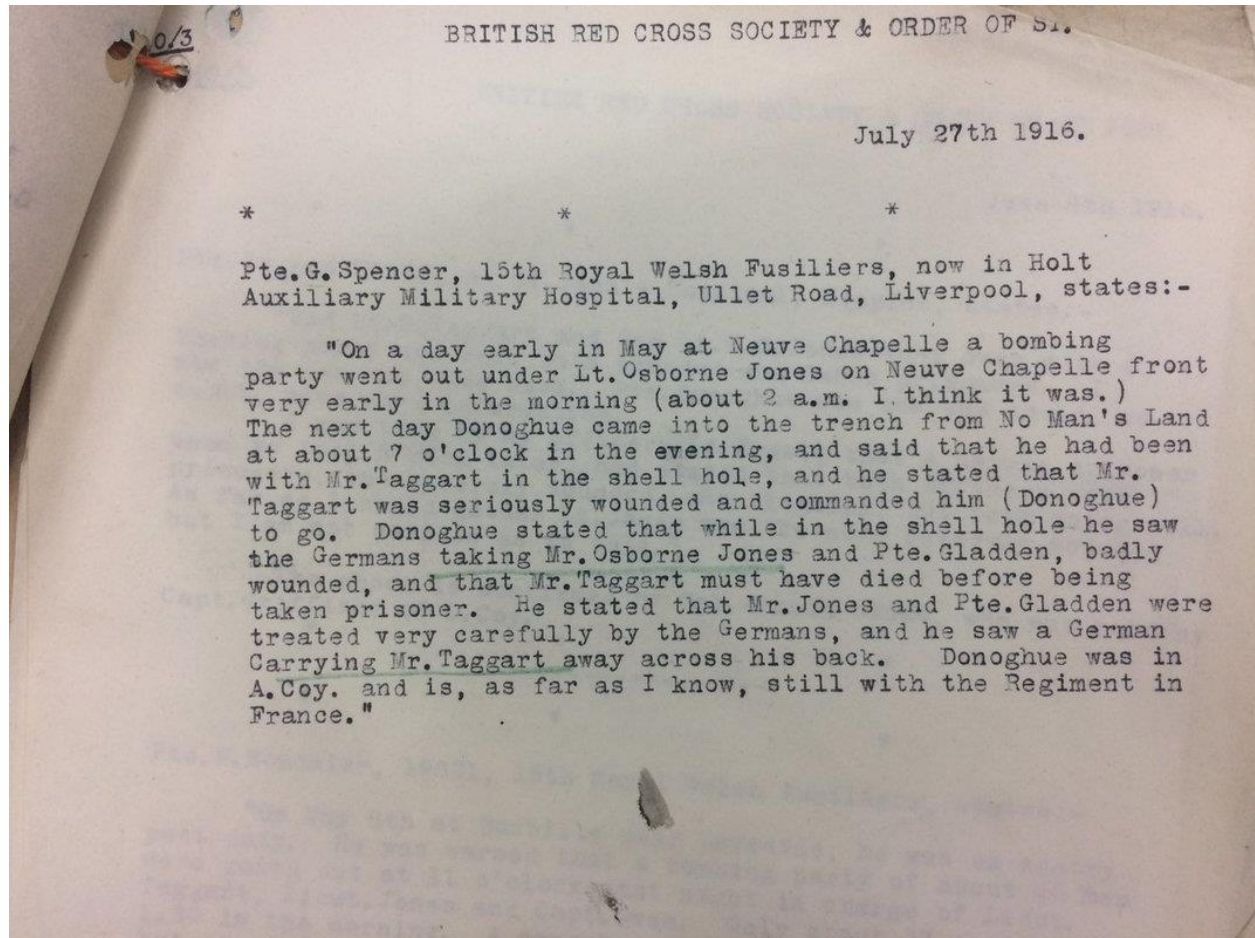
ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS. 15.

TAGGART, 2nd Lt.H. (from the 11th) W & M. May 8/16.

All I can tell you about this officer is that he was in the same bombing raid as 2nd Lt. Jones. He was left in a disused trench between our line and the Germans, by a man called Donaghue of A. Coy, whose number I do not know. 2nd Lt. Taggart was wounded in the back I think he said, but I am not sure. He was alive when Pte Donaghue left him. They went to look for him in the night, but could not find him. It was easy for the Germans to get out and take this officer in, because there was a line of willows round their line from our line to theirs. Nothing has been heard of him since.

Informant: Cpl. Rowley. 21839.
S.S. "St. David".
BOULOGNE. July 13th. 1916. EFN

ATTACHMENT #8f (Spencer)



ATTACHMENT #8g (War Office)

14 53 W6295-8901 0000 9/10 HWY(P1809/2) G15/1016

WAR OFFICE,
ALEXANDRA HOUSE,
KINGSWAY,
LONDON, W.C.

DEPOT ROYAL WELSH
No. H 1201
29-12-16
FLUSILERS, WREXHAM
Dec 1916.

Reference No. 104340/3

The Secretary of the War Office requests that you will be good enough to cause enquiries to be made in the following cases:-

2/dt H. Taggart 11/R. Welsh Fusiliers
2/dt H.V. Osborne Jones 15/R Welsh Fusiliers
both reported in London wounded and missing 8/5/16

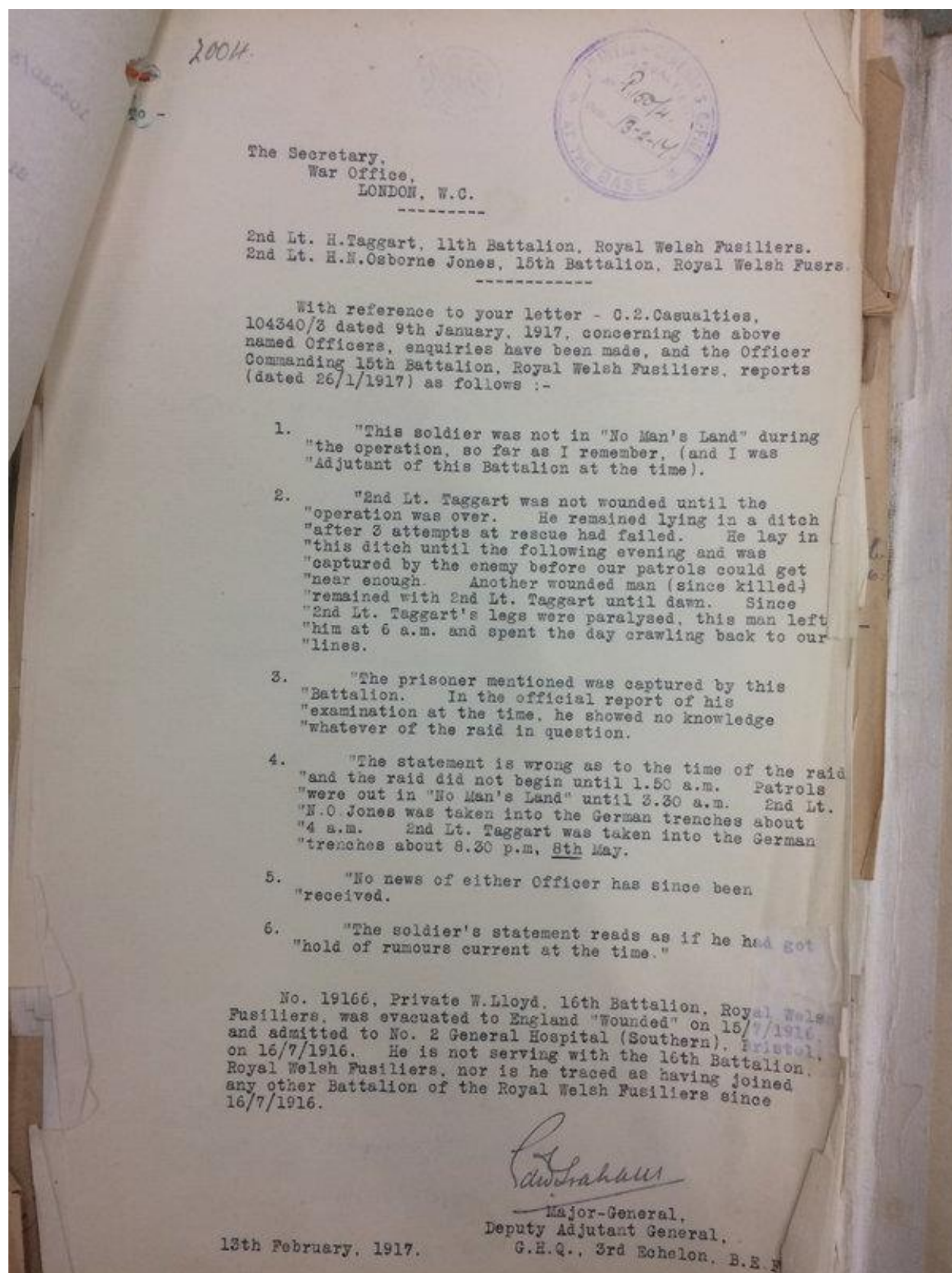
An unofficial report has been received that the above-named ~~soldier~~ officers were seen to be captured by the enemy. A copy of the informant's statement is attached.

The informant is 19166 Pte. W. J. Lloyd, 16th Battalion
last reported 16/7/16 - 2. Southern Hb. Bristol

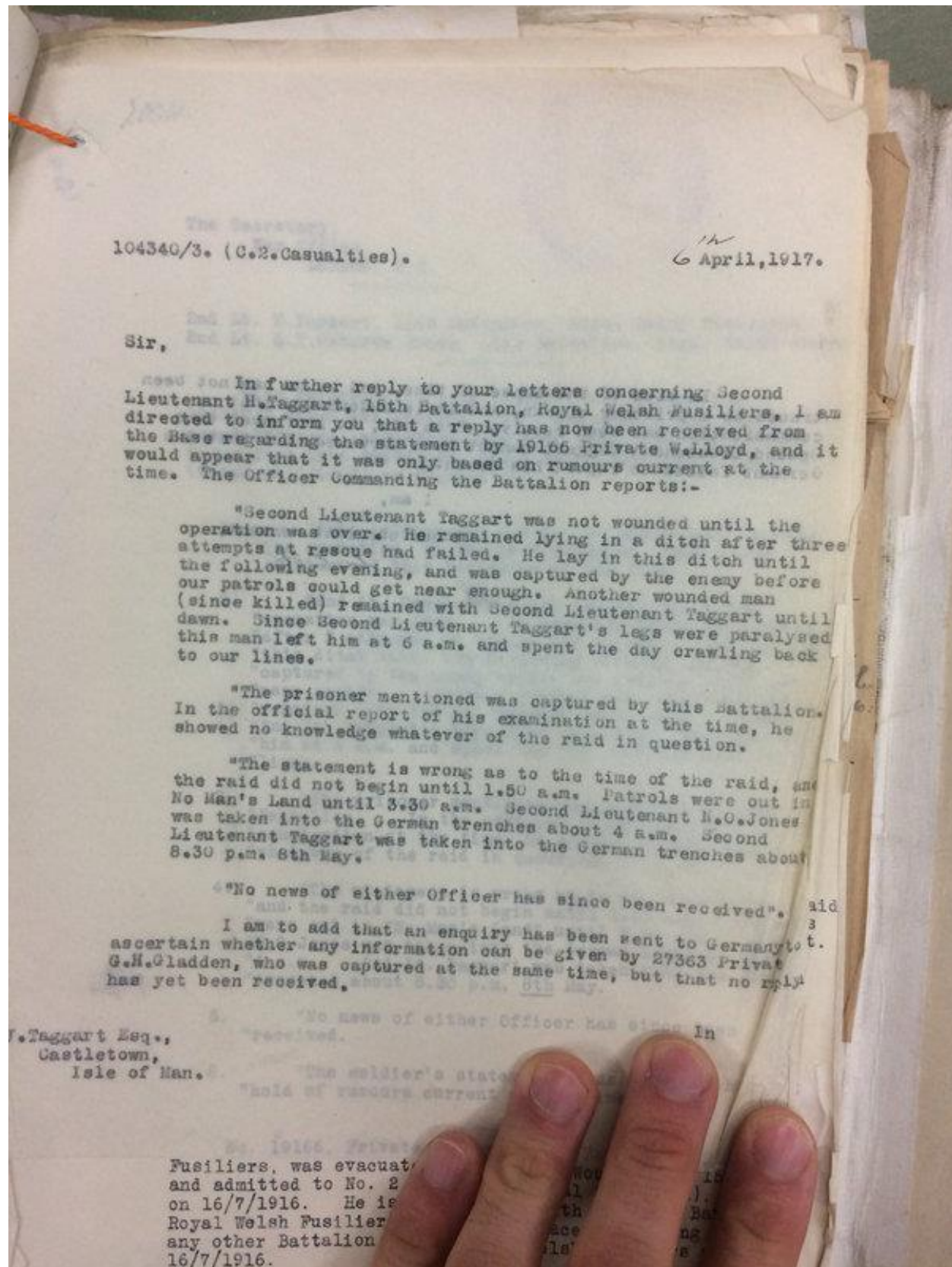
If he is still in this country, it is requested that he may be examined on his statement by you or the Officer Commanding the hospital. You should satisfy yourself that the evidence is reliable and report the result hereon direct to this Office. Special attention should be paid to (1) the identity of the ~~soldier~~ officers concerning whom the evidence is given, (2) the date (and place if necessary) of the event, and (3) ~~in case of death~~ officers were taken prisoners of war the exact reason for the belief of the informant that the ~~soldier~~ is dead.

The Officer Commanding The Depot
The Royal Welsh Fusiliers
Wrexham

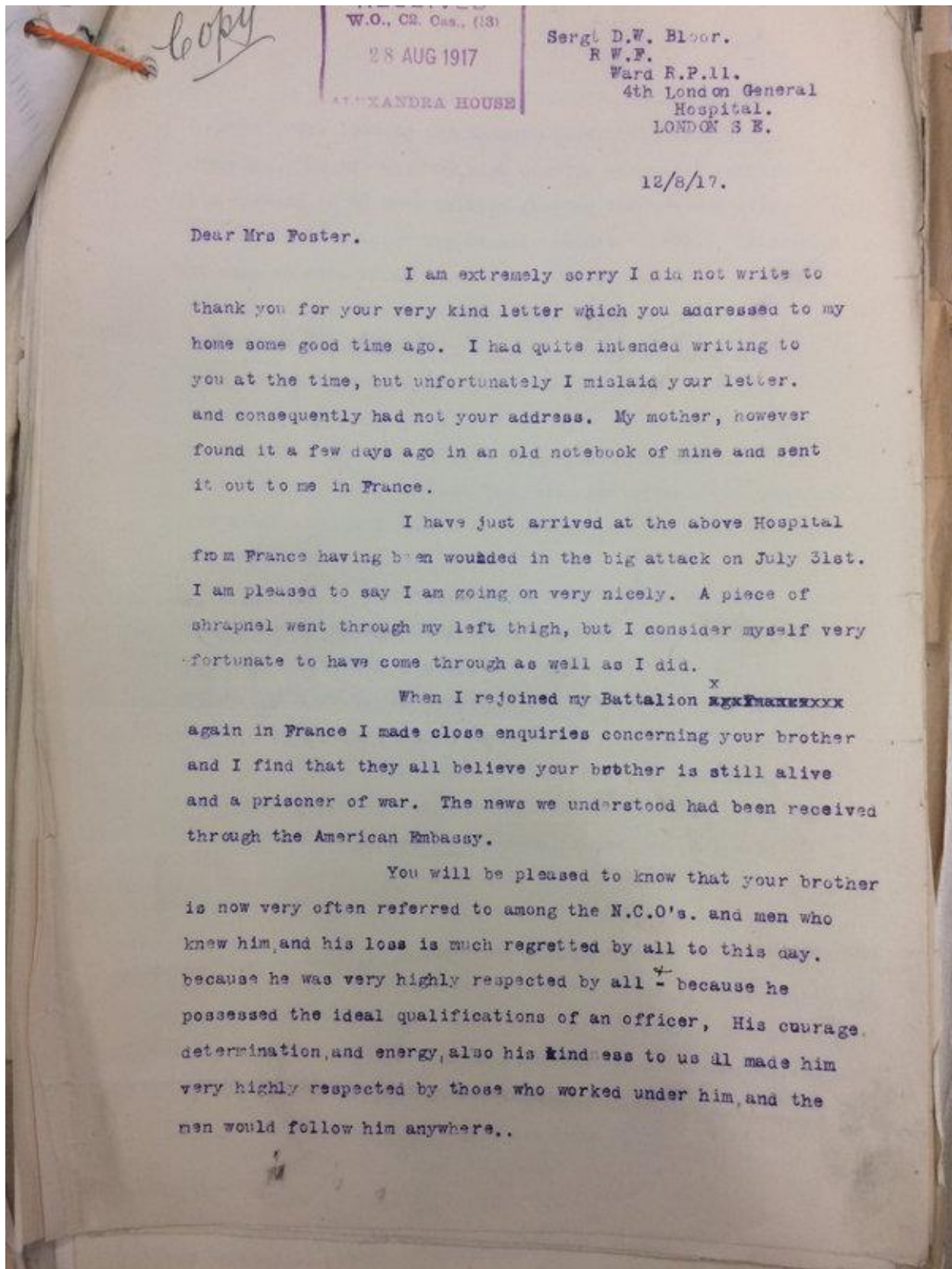
ATTACHMENT #8h (Major-General DAG)



ATTACHMENT #8i (C2 Casualty Report)



ATTACHMENT #8j (Bloor)



ATTACHMENT #8j (Bloor - continued)

-2-

On the night of the raid he was with Mr Osborne Jones leading the Radding Party into the German Trenches. He was then in high spirits because I remember him speaking to me when we were passing through the wire entanglements outside the German trenches. He was, of course hit when we were withdrawing after the attack about 30 yards from the German Trenches. The Captain was with him then and when I saw the Captain he told me that Mr Taggart had been hit and was lying not far from the enemy's trenches. I asked the Captain to tell me the spot where he was, and when he described the spot as best as he could, I went out to look for him, but could not find him, and after I had searched for about an hour I had to withdraw to our own lines as daylight was breaking.

He was, we believe, hit in the back, very probably by a Machine Gun. A search party was sent out the night following to search for him and Mr Osborne Jones, but much to the regret of all neither of them was found. Everything possible was done to try and find them.

Although the raid had been successful and the Battalion highly complimented upon it, yet there was a deep regret among all at the loss of our two officers.

The Brigadier General when speaking to us the next day referred to your brother and Mr Osborne Jones as being very highly capable officers.

I happen to know that your brother would have been awarded the Military Cross had he been found, but as no officer who is dead or missing can be awarded this distinction it could not be awarded in this case.

I have seen the list of Missing issued

ATTACHMENT #8j (Bloor - continued)

-2-

On the night of the raid he was with Mr Osborne Jones leading the Radding Party into the German Trenches. He was then in high spirits because I remember him speaking to me when we were passing through the wire entanglements outside the German trenches. He was, of course hit when we were withdrawing after the attack about 30 yards from the German Trenches. The Captain was with him then and when I saw the Captain he told me that Mr Taggart had been hit and was lying not far from the enemy's trenches. I asked the Captain to tell me the spot where he was, and when he described the spot as best as he could, I went out to look for him, but could not find him, and after I had searched for about an hour I had to withdraw to our own lines as daylight was breaking.

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ATTACHMENT #8j (Bloor - continued)

-3-

by the War Office, but your brother's name is not in it.
and it appears to me that some information must have
been received by them otherwise his name would be
amongst the names of the missing.

I do not think that there is any
further information I could give you, but if there is,
or anything I could do to help you to get information
concerning your brother I shall be most pleased to do so.

I wish to thank you for your very kind
congratulations which you sent concerning my being awarded
the D.C.M.

Trusting this will find you and Mr
Taggart in the best of health.

I am,

Yours very faithfully.

(SIGNED) D.W. Bloor.

ATTACHMENT #9

Regimental History of the 6th Kompanie of the 16th Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment (List Regiment), the unit that the 15th Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers raided on the night of 8 May 1916. Fritz Wiedemann (circa 1930s).

See this document in old German Script: <http://www.fschuppisser.ch/kuk/07bayinf.pdf> and where the recovery details are reported on pages 208 and 209.

GWF Researchers that were able to interpret this archaic script report that "*It appears to suggest they took in two wounded and three dead British soldiers*".

Page 208:

Am 8. Mai wurde die 6. Kompanie des Lt. d. R. Glunz durch eine englische Patrouille mit Handgranaten angegriffen. Sie hatte sich, geschützt durch die Dunkelheit und den für sie günstigen Wind, an die schwächste Stelle unseres Drahtverhaus herangeschlichen, die ersten Drähte durch Drahtscheren abgezwickelt und den Rest durch darübergeworfene Decken überwunden. Etwa 4—6 Handgranaten flogen in unseren Graben. Lt. Glunz,

Page 209:

der sich zufällig an der Angriffsstelle befand, und der nächste Posten erwiderten sofort mit Handgranaten, alarmierten dadurch die Kompanie und trieben die Engländer durch Maschinengewehr- und Infanteriefeuer zurück. Mehrere von Bizfeldweibel Erbacher geführte Patrouillen, an denen sich die Gefreiten Fertl und Holzleiter sowie der Infanterist Denhardt beteiligten, brachten darauf 2 verwundete und 3 tote Engländer in unseren Graben ein. Wenn man bedenkt, daß nach Abzug der zum Essen- und Materialholen, zu Stellungs- und Drahtverhauarbeiten sowie auf Patrouille verwendeten Mannschaften nur noch soviel Leute blieben, daß bei doppelter Ablösung auf je 15—20 m ein Posten stand, dann ist verständlich, daß den Engländern ein solcher Handstreich gelingen konnte. Bataillon und Regiment verfolgten diesen Standpunkt und erkannten an, daß die Kompanie sofort mit Patrouillen schneidig nachgestoßen hatte. Dagegen wurde von der Brigade die Ansicht vertreten, es dürfe auch in der dunkelsten Nacht nicht vorkommen, daß Feinde nach Überschreiten des Drahtverhaus Handgranaten in unseren Graben werfen könnten.

ATTACHMENT #10

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Commonwealth Forces during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

This process differs from cases related to members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) as these do not go first to the CWGC Canadian Agency in Ottawa. We have modified the requirement information noted below to include CWGC criteria from their source material:

Guideline Criteria for Submission:	Evidence and Source Material:
Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.	Un-cited resources cannot be accepted as official evidence. Research conducted on the internet will only be accepted if supplied by a recognised authority such as the CWGC, National Archives etc. Any primary (contemporary) sources <i>e.g. the National Archives, CWGC, and Genealogical website original documentation etc.</i> must be copied and submitted with the case. The relevant pages of any secondary material <i>e.g. published reference books and articles; website material etc.</i> should also be copied and submitted. All sources must be correctly referenced as footnotes throughout the submission as well as cited in a complete bibliography of consulted sources. Referencing is essential to any historical research and should contain some uniform elements.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton Canada	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Investigator & Report Author
Lars Ahlkvist	Volunteer Researcher Royal Welsh Forum, Hörby Sweden	larsfulltofta@gmail.com	Investigator & Report Reviewer
Timothy McTague	Private Researcher Rhode Island USA	timmct@verizon.net	Report Reviewer